



Region 2  
3201 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, MT 59804  
406-542-5500

April 8, 2019

Dear Interested Citizen:

Thank you for your thoughtful reviews and comments on a proposal by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to conduct forested habitat restoration treatments on approximately 1,492 acres within the Threemile Wildlife Management Area (TWMA) northeast of Stevensville in Ravalli County. The objectives of the treatments include improving elk and deer winter forage, restoring open-stand conditions dominated by large-diameter ponderosa pine, restoring a stand structure that would allow fire to burn at low severity appropriate for the habitat type, reducing fuel loading and susceptibility to bark beetle infestation, and promoting aspen growth and regeneration.

FWP recently completed the public review of this project and its associated draft environmental assessment (EA). Enclosed is a decision document for the EA in which FWP explains its rationale for recommending that the Fish & Wildlife Commission approve the TWMA Forest Habitat Restoration Project (Phase Two) project. Upon completion of the public involvement process, and by inclusion of any changes and additions in this Decision Notice, I accept the draft EA as final. The decision document also includes all public comments received during the public comment period on the proposed habitat restoration project.

FWP will request approval for this proposal from the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 25, 2019 in Helena. This meeting is open to the public, as are other regularly scheduled Commission meetings. (Earlier, this meeting had been scheduled for Bozeman but has just been changed to Helena.)

Please feel free to contact me at 406-542-5500 with any questions you may have. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold  
Regional Supervisor

RA:sr